SECT. XVIII.

Fig. 8. The two Defences of the Tail, of which the exterior Part *A.* is gibbous, the other or interior *B.* is, as it were, hollowed; Theſe Extremities are bifid. *C.* By this Part they are joined to the Tail.

VI. *Two Obſervations of* Exploſions *in the* Air; *one heard at* Halſted *in* Eſſex, *by the Rev. Mr.* A. Vievar, *Miniſter of that Place; the other by* Sam. Shepheard, *Eſq; of* Springfield *in the ſame County.*

ON *Sunday* the 12th of *March* 1731-2. between One and Two o'Clock in the Afternoon, walking in my Garden by the Side of a Canal, I heard as it had been a large Clap of Thunder from the North-Eaſt, being a very clear Day, and no Clouds appearing. While I was looking into the Air, the Noiſe was repeated very loud, but ſeemed more like the violent Fall of a Houſe, inſomuch that I expected every Moment an Out-cry from the Town: But I was ſoon undeceived, when it began again, and I found it made towards me, with a different Noiſe from what I had heard, that is, like the Grinding of Flint-ſtones, but very loud: The Dimenſions of it ſeem'd to be about three Foot wide. I found it ſink in the Air, and as it ſeem'd to point directly at my Head, I laid myſelf down upon a Graſs-ſlope, to let it paſs over me. However, at the upper End of

of the Walk I found it fell to the Ground, and came rolling down the Graſs-walk; and I can compare it to nothing better than to that of a violent Grinding of Flint-ſtones, or a Coach and Six upon the full Speed upon a Cauſway of looſe Stones. I lay attentive, expecting to ſee ſomething, and ſaw a Piece of Wood came running before it. When the *Phænomenon* came to the Water-ſide, it twiſted up a large Stake that ſtood in its way, and toſſed it towards me with much Violence, and immediately fell into the Water with the Violence and the Noiſe of a red-hot Mill-ſtone. I have ſeen the Seas break againſt a Rock in a Storm, but never ſaw a greater Ferment cauſed by the boiling of the Waters. It ſtaid about a Quarter of a Minute in the Water, and then mounted again into the Air, and went rattling away, but with much leſs Violence: I heard it for about a Quarter of a Mile, and loſt it.——*N. B.* It came againſt the Wind, and not faſter than a Man may walk. The Froth and Foam upon the Water remained thirty Hours after, when I ſhewed it to ſome Friends.

Halſted *in* Eſſex,
1731-2.

A. Vievar.

Part of a Letter to W^m. Woodford, *M. D. Fellow of the* College of Phyſicians, London.

——UPON *Tueſday* the 15th Inſtant, between Eleven and Twelve, the Sun ſhining very bright and hot, without the leaſt Cloud, the Wind ſo calm, that the Water was as ſmooth as Glaſs, I

was

was dreſſing in my little Room next the Garden, about forty Yards from the Canal, when I heard a very ſurpriſing Noiſe of Fire, reſembling, as I told you at *London*, as if a very large Quantity of Oil had been thrown into a great Bonfire, burning in its greateſt Rage. I ſtepp'd immediately to the Window which was open, where I ſaw the Middle of the Canal, which this dry Seaſon has ſunk about ſix Inches, in extreme Agitation, as rough as the *Thames* in a Storm, foaming and ſmoaking, and forced up, to my Appearance, full two Foot above the Surface, but it might be much more, my Window being greatly higher than the Canal; and the Fellow who was at Work, whom I examined again this Morning, proteſts he ſaw the Water, like the Spray of the Sea, above the Dwarf-Trees, which muſt neceſſarily be five or ſix Foot. I wiſh I had ſeen the Beginning of this uncommon *Phænomenon*, the Duration of which, I think, might be half a Minute, and made the Houſe ſtink, as if a Gun had been fired in it.

My Canal bears Eaſt and Weſt, and the Fellow ſays he heard it coming from the Weſt, bringing the Leaves of ſome tall Trees from an adjacent Field in its Paſſage; but could not diſcover any material or ſubſtantial Body to fall in the Water, where the Hiſſing, as I obſerved above, was very loud and violent; neither was there any Lightning or Thunder before or after, but the Day remain'd bright, ſtill, and hot. I forgot to ſay, the Space of the Canal that was affected by it, might be twelve or fifteen Yards.

Sam. Shepheard.

Springfield *in* Eſſex,
Aug. 22. 1732.